

DARPA TRANSFORMATIVE APPS

Frequently Asked Questions

DARPA-BAA-10-41

April 22, 2010



Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency
3701 North Fairfax Drive
Arlington, VA 22203-1714

Frequently Asked Questions

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| Q1. | May organizations respond to the three Areas of Interest "Applications Development", "Middleware Services and Libraries", and "Network Infrastructure"? |
| A1. | Yes. An Organization may respond to all three areas. |
| Q2. | What size teams are appropriate or preferred for this BAA? Certainly the scope of the work will be expanded accordingly based on the size of the team. |
| A2. | Smaller focused efforts are preferred to offers that are larger and all-encompassing. |
| Q3. | The abstract is due on March 17th, with DARPA providing feedback within a month. The initial proposal closing date (which gives us the best chance to win) is April 19th. I understand that this two-phased approach is designed to avoid unnecessary effort by the proposers but the stated timeline seems inconsistent with this goal. Could you clarify? |
| A3. | Feedback will be provided within a week of abstract submission so proposers have sufficient time to put the proposals together. |
| Q4. | Is there an anticipated award size for this program (\$100k, \$500k, \$1000k)? |
| A4. | No preferred award size has been predetermined, however the cost proposal should be commensurate with the scope of the work proposed. |
| Q5. | I would like to clarify the white paper response date for BAA 10-41, currently listed as March 17th. The RFI "Mobile Apps for the Military" (DARPA-SN-10-27), which appears related to this BAA, has a response date of March 26th. I just wanted to make sure both of these dates are correct, i.e. that Abstracts are due before responses to the RFI. |
| A5. | You are correct regarding the submission dates. Abstracts submitted to DARPA-BAA-10-41 are due 12:00 noon (ET), 17 March 2010. Responses to the RFI (DARPA-SN-10-27) will be accepted from 12:00 noon (ET), 15 March 2010 through 12:00 noon (ET), 26 March 2010. |
| Q6. | In reviewing Solicitation #: DARPA-SN-10-27 described as Mobile Apps for the Military, and Solicitation #: DARPA-BAA-10-41 titled Transformative Apps, it's unclear whether these are indeed two separate solicitations. One is an RFI and the other is a BAA. Please clarify. |
| A6. | The BAA is for efforts that require development work, whereas the RFI is for efforts that will likely require only minor changes to be useful for military applications. |

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| Q7. | Do you have a recommended period of performance? What is the typical project size in terms of budget? |
| A7. | DARPA has not determined a preferred period of performance or budget. Also, please see answer 12. |
| Q8. | We would like to clarify that the funding for agreement will 6.2 funding and therefore the 35% indirect costs cap does not apply. |
| A8. | DARPA anticipates that 6.2 funding will be used for this program. |
| Q9. | Would you be able to tell me what the desired format is for the PowerPoint Slide part of the abstract? The instructions are not clear. My basic question is, do they want (1) one PDF or Word document, with embedded PowerPoint slides, or (2) separate PowerPoint 3-slide presentation, and accompanying 6-page Abstract including cover page. |
| A9. | DARPA requires a separate PowerPoint 3-slide presentation, and 6-page Abstract including cover page. PowerPoint or alternative slide presentation formats are acceptable. |
| Q10. | We plan on submitting multiple abstracts in response to DARPA-BAA-10-41. May we use the same account for each submission or do we have to request a new account each time? |
| A10. | You must create a separate account for each submission. |
| Q11. | If proposer is a small business, i.e. not an Educational Institution or a Tribal Government, will the indirect cost rate cap of 35% apply? |
| A11. | The indirect cost rate cap of 35% applies only if 6.1 funds are used. The program anticipates the use of 6,2 funds so the cap does not apply. |
| Q12. | We plan to submit abstracts and proposals covering two areas of interest listed in the BAA: "Applications Development" and "Middleware Services and Libraries". As these two areas are closely related (applications are developed on a Middleware libraries), should we submit these as two separate proposals, or is it possible to submit a single proposal that covers both "Areas"? |
| A12. | It is okay to submit a single proposal to cover both areas but we will be looking for the demonstration and delivery of the services BEFORE significant time is devoted to apps development and enhancement. |

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| Q13. | I understand users and respondents are to log in as soon as possible before the abstract submission deadline- what is the approximate length in time it takes between a submission of a BAA log-in account request until receipt of an e-mail confirmation granting access to the aforementioned BAA? |
| A13. | Creating an account is a fairly quick process, requiring a day or two. However, we ask that proposers take care of this early, so delays do not occur. Avoid registering on the date that submissions are due. |
| Q14. | In preparing the Abstract for BAA-10-41 it is noted on page 16 where there is a table of the sections required for the Abstract, in the next sentence it says "The abstract shall include the following sections . . .," yet the "following" sections appear to address requirements for the proposal phase. Are the four sections in the table: Cover Sheet, Technical Summary-slides, Technical Summary and Cost Summary what is required for the Abstract? |
| A14. | You are correct. The paragraph in question should have stated "The abstract shall include the sections above . . ." The sections in the table: Cover Sheet, Technical Summary-slides, Technical Summary and Cost Summary, are what is required for the Abstract. |
| Q15. | Is the program primarily interested in the networking infrastructure between a mobile platform and dismounted warfighters? |
| A15. | The program is also interested in line-of-sight or beyond line-of-sight backhaul. SATCOM, Wimax or other technologies should be considered. Cost and security are a key consideration. |
| Q16. | Can you tell us more about the cellular network for tactical soldiers? |
| A16. | The goal is to demonstrate a lightweight, inexpensive, mobile (vehicle mounted) GSM cellular infrastructure with wideband data services, at least GPRS/EDGE or equivalent with path to 3G. Base station price unit goal is \$5000. The military does not require billing functionality but does require distributed services so that network enclaves may operate without a backhaul link. This suggests distribution of MSC/HLR function to the base station, as well as possible termination of the mobile subscriber air interface in a TCP/IP switching infrastructure for back-end transport. |
| Q17. | Will the mobile base station operate with vehicle stopped (with engine off)? |
| A17. | The proposal should discuss both on-the halt and on-the move (what speed?) operations, as well as powering requirement. The discussion also should address channel de-confliction and handoff. |

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| Q18. | How important is VOIP? |
| A18. | Integration with VOIP infrastructure will be very important. Dismounted warfighters should be able to communicate without always having to utilize the backhaul link. This means that VOIP switching capability needs to reside in the vehicle. |
| Q19. | Which network security issues are most important for the program? |
| A19. | There are many considerations including (but not limited to): data/voice confidentiality and integrity assured at level appropriate for SBU operation; secure apps distribution; user device management including security policy management and enforcement; protection of distributed back-end architecture etc. |
| Q20. | What are some of the important characteristics of the middleware services to be developed in this program? |
| A20. | Utility, performance, and unlimited or Government Purpose rights. If the proposal includes incorporation of proprietary software that will be incorporated into the middleware service, licensing and maintenance cost will be an important consideration. |
| Q21. | What types of files should be submitted in the zipped file? |
| A21. | The proposal shall be delivered in two volumes, Volume 1 (technical proposal) and Volume 2 (cost proposal). Proposers are reminded that there should be no more than three files placed into the zipped/encrypted file that will eventually be uploaded to DARPA's T-FIMS proposal submission system. Enclosed in the encrypted file should be the technical proposal (.pdf file), which includes the slides; the cost proposal (.pdf file); and one file containing the video. |
| Q22. | Is there a total allotment of MBs that the WinZip file needs to be under? Or are there separate allotments for the Doc and Video files? |
| A22. | The T-FIMS submission system can handle submissions up to 75 MB. If your video is larger than 75 MB, please submit your video via the US mail to ATTN: DARPA-BAA-10-41 Video, 3701 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203-1714. If planning on mailing your video submission, please provide DARPA with five copies of your video on five CD-ROMs, and you MUST PROVIDE THE SUBMISSION NUMBER (P-1041-XXXXXX) with your CD-ROMs. While you have the option of mailing your video, PLEASE BE AWARE THAT YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO SUBMIT YOUR TECHNICAL PROPOSAL AND COST PROPOSAL VIA T-FIMS OR GRANTS.GOV. |